

Assisting Families in Angola Affected by War



Photo: USAID/CDRA

Maria Sousa receives seed and tool kit from USAID's Consortium for Developmental Relief of Angola program.

In late 2001, a severe famine engulfed Angola due to destruction of the agriculture infrastructure caused by the prolonged civil war. In the rural community of Bimbe in central Angola, the population was especially hit by the famine. Primary healthcare was non-existent, and several international agencies reported mortality rates 5-10 times the normal emergency levels.

USAID and U.S.-based partners formed the Consortium for Developmental Relief in Angola (CDRA) to help families affected by war to become food secure over an 18-month period throughout Central Angola. In Bimbe, emergency distributions of food, supplemental feeding to sustain families, and "food for work" programs to improve roads and transportation access were implemented.

Within six months, the benefits to families of Bimbe were realized including the reduction of the malnutrition rate to below 2% and a child mortality rate of 2 -3 per month. Overall, the USAID-funded CDRA Program helps more than 110,000 families in eight Central Angolan Provinces with a variety of emergency and developmental interventions using both food aid and cash assistance.

Photo & Caption